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## Senate

The Senate met at 3:02 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our sure refuge, teach us how to live this day. Give us relaxed attitudes that lengthen life. Make us like trees that bear lifegiving fruit. Keep us calm when we feel indignation. Grant that our work will bring freedom and not captivity.

Look with favor upon the Members of the Senate, and bless them according to their needs. Lord, move their minds to discover Your purposes. Keep alive in each of them the grace of Your spirit, lest they lose the awareness of Your presence in their lives.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 21, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Sen-

ator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 870, H.R. 502, AND H.R. 815

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, a little housekeeping.

I understand that there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 870) to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

A bill (H.R. 502) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 815) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

### WORLD DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today is World Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

To honor this day, I am wearing a pair of socks given to me yesterday, in Schenectady, by my friend Sheila Seery. Sheila's daughter, Anna, is 14 and lives with Down syndrome. These socks come from a company on Long Island called John's Crazy Socks, run by a man with Down syndrome, who makes socks to help raise awareness for the condition. So, not only are they a wonderful pair of socks, they are also for a great cause.

Today, I am thinking of my friend Sheila and her daughter, Anna, as well as every family in our country who has a loved one living with Down syndrome.

### AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the AUMFs, today, the Senate begins debate on a resolution formally repealing the Iraq AUMFs of 2002 and 1991, bringing us another step closer to ending these war authorities and putting these conflicts behind us for good.

I want to note last week's vote on cloture—68 to 27. That is a clear sign of bipartisan support in this Chamber. I hope Republicans will work with us to keep this bill moving forward, because AUMF repeal in the Senate is now a matter of when, not of if. It is my hope that we can finish our work on repealing these AUMFs as soon as possible.

We will have a reasonable amendment process. That said, given last week's strong vote, there is no reason to drag this out. I am encouraged that, in the House, Members from both sides of the aisle seem to be open to taking action once the Senate passes this resolution, and there are Members of the Senate Republican leadership who seem very strongly for the bill. That is a very good sign.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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